

CONFIDENTIAL: To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication
as follows :-

MORNING PAPERS .. SATURDAY, 12th JANUARY, 1935.
EVENING PAPERS .. SATURDAY, 12th JANUARY, 1935.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Statistics from various sources, which offer some indication of the change in the intensity of unemployment, and in the volume of factory employment, are made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E.T. McPhee).

1. UNEMPLOYMENT, 4TH QUARTER. 1934.

The figures relating to unemployment are similar to those published quarterly in the past, and are derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns from which the following figures have been derived is normally about half the total. Generally it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season, though the food preserving industries have some effect in this connection. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for each quarter from the 4th Quarter of 1931 to the 4th Quarter of 1934, are as follows:-

1931	4th Quarter	..	28.0	per cent
1932	1st	"	28.3	" "
	2nd	"	30.0	" "
	3rd	"	29.6	" "
	4th	"	28.1	" "
1933	1st	"	26.5	" "
	2nd	"	25.7	" "
	3rd	"	25.1	" "
	4th	"	23.0	" "
1934	1st	"	21.9	" "
	2nd	"	20.9	" "
	3rd	"	20.4	" "
	4th	"	18.8	" "

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of November, 1934.

The percentages given above show the almost continuous rise in unemployment up to the 2nd Quarter of 1932, which had been uninterrupted since 1929. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931, to February, 1932 - the maximum point was reached in May, 1932, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership.

From the apex the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the third quarter of 1932, and in the two quarters following, the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per 1,000 in the fourth quarter of 1932, and 16 per 1,000 in the first quarter of 1933. The improvement continued until unemployment stood at 18.8 per cent. for November, 1934. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since May, 1930, when it was 18.5 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 11.2 per cent., or 112 per 1,000 members, i.e., from 30.0 in May, 1932, to 18.8 per cent. in November, 1934.

This improvement since the 2nd Quarter of 1932 has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- Western Australia, 140; Victoria, 124; South Australia, 122; Queensland, 108; Tasmania, 104; New South Wales, 97. The

more recent improvement during the 4th Quarter of 1934 over the previous quarter was shared by all States in the following order:- Improvement per 1,000 members - South Australia, 23; Queensland, 23; Victoria, 22; Tasmania, 19; New South Wales, 10; Western Australia, 9.

The improvement in unemployment, since the peak in 1932, has been general throughout all those classes of industry for which information is available. The improvement per 1,000 members has been as follows:- "Other" Manufacturing (undefined), 212; Building, 187; Engineering, Metal Works, etc., 128; Clothing, etc., 111; Wood, Furniture etc., 108; Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services, 106; Miscellaneous, 76; Books, Printing, etc., 72; Mining, Quarrying, etc., 48; Food, Drink, etc., 37.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended:

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting, and
Number and Percentage Unemployed - 1st Quarter, 1929,
to 4th Quarter, 1934.

AUSTRALIA	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934	4th Quarter 1934
Number of Unions ..	375	396	394	394	394	394	396
Membership ..	420,756	413,742	416,560	422,056	422,113	425,104	426,866
Unemployed - Number ..	39,159	124,068	95,745	92,297	88,413	86,652	80,097
Percentage ..	9.3	30.0	23.0	21.9	20.9	20.4	18.8

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed in each State -
1st Quarter, 1929, to 4th Quarter, 1934.

State	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934	4th Quarter 1934
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales ..	9.7	33.2	27.0	25.8	25.0	24.5	23.5
Victoria ..	8.6	27.7	19.9	18.6	18.0	17.5	15.3
Queensland ..	7.1	19.9	13.8	13.7	12.7	11.4	9.1
South Australia ..	13.2	35.2	28.9	28.5	25.4	25.4	23.0
Western Australia ..	8.5	30.3	20.5	19.5	18.3	17.2	16.3
Tasmania ..	8.7	27.4	18.2	17.7	17.9	18.9	17.0
TOTAL:	9.3	30.0	23.0	21.9	20.9	20.4	18.8

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - AUSTRALIA -
1st Quarter, 1929, to 4th Quarter, 1934.

Industrial Group	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934	2nd Quarter 1934	3rd Quarter 1934	4th Quarter 1934
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	6.5	39.6	32.9	31.7	31.1	29.3	28.8
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	11.2	33.9	25.8	24.8	24.2	22.6	21.1
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco &c.	5.4	19.4	16.5	15.5	17.1	17.9	15.7
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots &c.	9.8	22.6	16.1	16.0	12.5	13.8	11.5
V. Books, Printing etc.	2.6	16.8	13.2	11.8	11.7	10.8	9.6
VI. Other Manufacturing	13.8	43.0	30.4	26.8	24.7	24.1	21.8
VII. Building ..	10.6	42.1	32.2	30.8	28.2	26.0	23.4
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	13.2	34.2	29.1	27.9	28.3	30.3	29.4
X. Land Transport, other than Railway & Tramway Services ..	7.6	29.6	23.0	22.1	21.1	20.2	19.0
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous	7.3	22.2	17.1	16.7	16.5	15.9	14.6
TOTAL:	9.3	30.0	23.0	21.9	20.9	20.4	18.8

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - STATES - 4th Quarter, 1934.

Industrial Group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	AUST.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	28.1	35.5	4.8	37.1	24.5	17.3	28.8
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	24.6	18.3	7.7	32.1	13.8	9.4	21.1
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	20.1	8.5	17.9	12.6	12.1	19.0	15.7
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	17.7	8.6	7.1	11.9	24.3	5.3	11.5
V. Books, Printing, etc.	14.0	5.4	3.9	17.1	12.0	7.6	9.6
VI. Other Manufacturing	30.0	15.5	4.2	13.6	12.9	17.6	21.8
VII. Building ..	23.5	22.3	18.0	41.1	16.1	31.2	23.4
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	31.4	14.6	17.5	-	17.3	28.8	29.4
X. Land Transport, other than Rail- way and Tramway Services	28.4	14.4	3.8	30.0	24.8	29.9	19.0
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous	19.8	11.4	6.3	10.3	12.2	13.9	14.6
ALL GROUPS:	23.5	15.3	9.1	23.0	16.3	17.0	18.8

II. EMPLOYMENT.

As a supplement to the figures of unemployment given above, some figures indicating the changes in employment in factories are given below for four States. The figures for New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia have been supplied by the Government Statisticians for those States, (for convenience of comparison the figures for New South Wales have been converted to a percentage basis) while the figures for Queensland have been taken from the "Economic News" issued by the Queensland Bureau of Industry. Similar figures are not available for Victoria or Tasmania.

The figures given immediately below for New South Wales are based on 42 factories representing about 11 per cent. of all factory employment in that State; the South Australian figures are based on not less than 50 per cent. of all factory employment; while Western Australian figures cover 35 per cent. of all persons similarly employed.

INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

BASE:- New South Wales and South Australian results are shown as percentages on the numbers employed in January, 1930; Western Australian figures are related to the average monthly employment for the year 1929-30.

No allowance has been made in the following figures for increased population.

Month	New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia
January, 1930	100	100	100 (a)
January, 1931	75	71	(b)
January, 1932	76	70	65
January, 1933	84	79	82
January, 1934	ø 91	87	89
July, 1933	89	84	79
August, "	90	84	83
September, "	93	83	85
October, "	95	84	87
November, "	97	87	89
December, "	96	87	91
February, 1934	96	93	90
March, "	97	94	93
April, "	98	95	95
May, "	99	99	92
June, "	99	96	91
July, "	99	96	90
August, "	101	98	92
September, "	102	100	96

(a) Base - Year 1929-30. (b) Not available.

ø Dispute in Textile Industry.

/ A more

A more recent investigation by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, which was extended to 98 of the larger factories, indicates that there were 45,144 employees on the pay sheets in the middle week of June, compared with 39,344 in the corresponding week of 1933, and 35,794 in 1932. This represents an increase in factory employment of 26 per cent. in two years. These results are slightly lower than the figures obtained from the 42 factories referred to above.

QUEENSLAND. (From "Economic News")

Employment and Unemployment - Men Wage-earners.

(Full-time, including its equivalent in "rationed" Employment and Unemployment).

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on employment.		Approximate number (including the equivalent of rationing)	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Average 1929 ..	89.9	10.1	148,340	16,660
" 1930 ..	86.4	13.6	144,630	22,850
" 1931 ..	77.2	22.8	131,270	38,730
" 1932 ..	77.8	22.2	134,130	38,320
" 1933 ..	79.8	20.2	139,720	35,310
3 months ended -				
September, 1933 ..	79.8	20.2	140,040	35,540
March, 1934 ..	81.3	18.7	143,790	33,100
April, " ..	82.9	17.1	146,770	30,340
May, " ..	84.2	15.8	149,270	28,060
June, " ..	85.0	15.0	150,910	26,640
July, " ..	85.0	15.0	151,040	26,730
August, " ..	85.8	14.2	152,630	25,360
September " ..	86.0	14.0	153,180	25,030

The Director of the Queensland Bureau of Industry remarks that the further improvement is due entirely to increased private employment.

BUILDING PERMITS.

A further index of the relative activity in industry is furnished by Building Permits issued, and the estimated amount to be spent on the proposed buildings and repairs.

The following table gives details of the value of Building Permits issued in the Six Capital Cities and Suburbs of the Commonwealth for the periods shown.

YEAR	New Dwellings	Other New Buildings	Alterations and Additions	Total Value All Building Operations
	£	£	£	£
1928	17,547,932	4,923,432	873,282	23,344,646
1929	15,165,875	4,443,784	931,410	20,541,069
1930	4,454,429	1,881,174	1,190,754	7,526,357
1931	1,249,421	1,818,764	1,128,938	4,197,123
1932	2,414,454	1,710,965	1,680,796	5,806,215
1933	4,272,974	1,979,095	2,368,824	8,620,893
1931 - 3rd Quarter	250,054	612,854	306,541	1,169,449
1932 - " "	709,948	316,090	454,563	1,480,601
1933 - " "	1,325,620	385,586	594,772	2,305,978
1934 - " "	2,243,300	629,556	990,827	3,863,683

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY E.T. MCPHEE, COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN,
CANBERRA F.C.T.

11th January, 1935.